



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

National Public Radio broadcast at Brooks 'historic'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks made Air Force and San Antonio history Sept. 19 when it hosted the live national radio broadcast of National Public Radio's "Science Friday," part of the Talk of the Nation series.

The public event, a first for Brooks, was arranged by Texas Public Radio and sponsored by DPT Laboratories, the San Antonio Technology Accelerator Initiative, known as SATAI, and the University of Texas at San Antonio's College of Engineering. About 300 people attended the show held in Bldg. 180's auditorium.

"It's only the second time that they have broadcast from San Antonio. They first broadcast the program at the Witte Museum in November 1998," said Janet Allen, Texas Public Radio's director of corporate support.

"Science Friday," founded in 1991 by its host Ira Flatow, reaches 1.2 million listeners nationally. Flatow fre-

Texas has long been associated with oil wells, but ranks second in the nation behind California in wind-generated power, producing 900 megawatts of electricity a year. CPS provides 4,000 megawatts (annually) to San Antonio. Of that, four percent comes from wind power. The Air Force is the largest consumer of wind power in Bexar County.

Ira Flatow
NPR 'Science Friday' host

quently picks different venues to broadcast the program, which is based in New York City where he was born.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Ira Flatow, host of National Public Radio's "Science Friday," conducts a live broadcast of the weekly show from the Bldg. 180 auditorium Sept. 19.

Texas wind power and the San Antonio Missions' preservation were the featured topics during the two-hour program.

Broadcast, Page 6

CFC kicks off at Brooks

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

Brooks kicked off the 2003 Combined Federal Campaign Sept. 18 with the Commander's Run followed by breakfast and a presentation at Sidney's.

"CFC is a chance for us to give back to the community," said Maj. Jeffery Owen, head of the CFC at Brooks. "The gifts we give the CFC really make a difference."

The six-week campaign allows government and state employees to donate to selected charities through direct withdrawals from their paychecks. The CFC donation list contains more than 1,600 organizations. Organizers donated funds from the breakfast to the campaign.

"There are all kind of interests in there that you can make contributions to," said Col. Laura Alvarado, 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander.

Alvarado made the first Brooks donation, handing in her pledge sheet

Campaign, Page 8

Brooks, community honor Retirees and POW/MIA

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

During a day that mixed happiness with sobriety, friends with memories of those passed, and the joy of camaraderie with the knowledge that some never again will see their loved ones, Brooks meshed Retiree Appreciation Day and POW/MIA Recognition Day into nine hours of events and ceremonies that evoked an array of emotional responses.

The commemoration Sept. 19 began at historic Hangar 9. Retirees, active duty members and civilians met and talked, looking at booths ranging from the Retired Enlisted Association, to the San Antonio Police Department to funeral preparations, eating donuts, coffee and pastries donated from vendors around town.

"It's really important," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Fred Dickinson, director of the Retiree Activities Office on Brooks and co-organizer of the events. "It makes us feel pretty good that the Active Duty will do these things. It keeps you connected."

In the midst of the conversation and chuckling, a voice over the speakers asked participants to take their seats for the formal ceremony.

Commemoration, Page 16

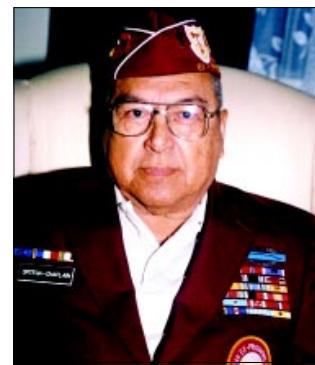


Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

A retiree stops for 'goodies' from a booth in Hangar 9 during Retiree Appreciation Day events Sept. 19. Retirees, active duty service members and civilians gathered at Brooks to commemorate Retiree Appreciation Day, in conjunction with National POW/MIA Recognition Day. See related story and photos, Page 17.

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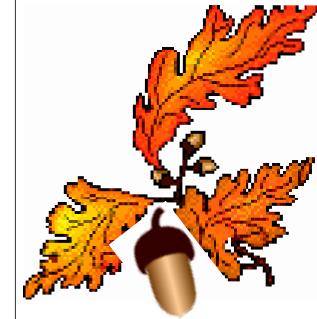
A Bataan survivor speaks of POW/MIA day

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A legend speaks at Brooks event

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Autumn is here



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Commentary



Transformation: It's all about the mission

By Dr. Marvin Sambur

Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Acquisition)

and

Gen. Gregory Martin

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — It was a truly extraordinary gathering that should give hope to all who are eager to join us in taking Air Force acquisition and sustainment to ever-higher levels of excellence.

On Sept. 12, we met in Washington with virtually all the senior leaders in acquisition. The current program executive officers, product and logistics center commanders, acquisition capabilities directors, and logistics and science and technology leaders from the Pentagon joined us to begin mapping out the implementation of the recently announced reorganization of our PEO structure.

Details of the implementation will be announced soon as we continue to deal with the details that inevitably surface when a large organization retools itself to adapt to new and quickly changing realities.

But there were clear messages that came out of this meeting:

— Everything we are doing has one aim: to make the Air Force better. In the world of acquisition, that means delivering what we promise, when we promise.

— Our focus is on the mission. The mission is successful execution of our acquisition programs. In order to do so we must ensure that we have embraced the concept of Agile Acquisition characterized by speed and credibility. Everything that distracts from that mission must be avoided. Anything that detracts from that mission must be eliminated or fixed.

— The leadership of SAF/AQ and Air Force Materiel Command are united as never before in charting the course ahead. There will be no “pride of authorship” on good ideas. Attempts to divide us into camps will not be tolerated and will fail. There is one, joint agenda and we will move forward together with a single focus and single purpose: to provide our warfighters with the very best systems, systems of systems and capabilities.

We were struck by the atmosphere of cooperation and dedication as we begin down this new path. We are convinced that this reorganization will facilitate several important goals. Among them are:

— Improved support to the warfighter in terms of both acquisition and sustainment.

— Increased collaboration between SAF/AQ and AFMC. We must become one team.

— Better alignment of accountability. As the PEOs are dual-hatted as product center commanders, they will have both the responsibility and the control of resources necessary to do the job.

— More clearly focused roles: PEOs will focus on execution of acquisition. Logistics center commanders will focus on execution of sustainment.

— Streamlined management with clear chains of command.

At our leadership meeting last week it was clear that we don't have all the answers. We need to better define when our systems pass from being acquisition programs into being primarily sustainment efforts. There is no easy formula for that.

Also, we have work to do to more fully integrate our great science and technology capabilities into the entire acquisition and sustainment life cycle.

We have defined a top-level implementation strategy as a two-phased approach.

Under Phase 1, all acquisition programs will be assigned to and be the responsibility of a PEO.

Phase 1, via an IOC/FOC construct, begins Oct. 1 with the first realignment and we have set Jan.

“ As we embark on this transformation, we draw confidence and no small amount of pride from our great acquisition workforce. The record is clear. When it comes to acquiring and sustaining capabilities that ensure decisive victory, no one comes close to our Air Force. The results of recent operations in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq are just the most visible examples of what we can accomplish. ”

”

Dr. Marvin Sambur

Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisitions

and

Gen. Gregory Martin

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

31, 2004 as the target completion of FOC.

Phase 2 will align the management of our weapon systems according to core competencies (all acquisition efforts under the PEOs and all sustainment efforts under the air logistics center commanders).

There is no doubt this is a challenge, but we can make this happen.

Finally, we need to do more to reach outside of the acquisition community to our users — the warfighters. We must form true partnerships with the warfighter to build trust, understand tradeoffs and deliver what is truly needed.

None of this will be easy. As Gen. John Jumper, our chief of staff, frequently says about complex plans, “There a zero percent chance that we will get this 100 percent right.”

But that's OK. We simply cannot wait to act until we have answers to every possible “what about this?” and “what about that?”

Instead, we've started down the path that looks the most promising and makes the most sense. We'll constantly evaluate our progress and we won't be afraid to make mid-course corrections.

As we embark on this transformation, we draw confidence and no small amount of pride from our great acquisition workforce. The record is clear. When it comes to acquiring and sustaining capabilities that ensure decisive victory, no one comes close to our Air Force. The results of recent operations in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq are just the most visible examples of what we can accomplish.

Everyone involved in Air Force acquisition and sustainment should know this: We are not reorganizing out of some sense of desperation. We all are rightly proud of what we accomplish.

But we cannot be satisfied or complacent. By reforming our bureaucracy and energizing our culture, we can unleash still more of the potential of our acquisition community.

As this transformation moves quickly from planning to execution, we will do our best to keep everyone informed as to our expectations and our plans for future steps.

For now, our chief expectation is that everyone, no matter where in the acquisition chain they work, will remember this: “It's all about the mission.”



Officials set holiday mailing dates, policies

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The dates for mailing items to and from overseas locations in time for the holidays are fast approaching, and Military Postal Service Agency officials have suggestions for ensuring packages and letters arrive on time.

In fact, customers who mail early may save money and still have an on-time delivery, said Mark J. DeDomenic, chief of operations at the agency.

"As we get closer to Christmas, the mail volumes get higher, and therefore mail takes longer to be delivered," he said.

The recommended mail deadlines for sending mail from the United States to all overseas military mailing addressees for the holidays are:

- Parcel post: Nov. 13
- Space-available mail: Nov. 28
- Parcel-airlift mail: Dec. 4
- Priority, first-class letters or cards: Dec. 11

DeDomenic said these dates can also be observed by customers sending mail from overseas locations to the U.S.

Customs forms are required on all international mail, and shipments should be properly packaged before sending them overseas, DeDomenic said.

"Customers should always remember to ensure they package their parcels in strong boxes and use a lot of packing material," he said. "Popcorn or newspaper makes for great packaging material."

DeDomenic also suggested customers use a nylon-fiber reinforced tape

to bundle up their packages.

"Keep in mind that packages going to military addresses overseas are handled many times and travel long distances. Therefore strong boxes and good internal packing is important," DeDomenic said.

While the U.S. has restrictions on mailing items such as poisons and weapons, other countries have their own restrictions for what can be mailed, DeDomenic said. Postal customers need to consider the length of the journey overseas and the final destination when considering what to send.

"I would advise customers to not mail perishable items and to ensure they do not mail things such as batteries, hazardous materials or weapons," DeDomenic said. "Items such as coffee or tobacco are restricted to certain locations. If there is any doubt as to the mailability of particular items, customers should always check with their local post office."

Because of security restrictions, mass-mailing operations such as Operation Dear Abby or the "Any Servicemember" mailing program are not being supported by the agency, DeDomenic said.

Postal agency officials encourage servicemembers to support the publicly available Web sites that allow the American public to write supportive letters to them.

For more information on troop support ideas visit the recommended Web site at: www.defendamerica.com.

Additional information, addressing tips, prohibitions and more packaging guidance is also available on the U.S. Postal Service Web site at: www.usps.com.

USO tribute show honors veterans with musical sequel

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Veterans past and present are again being honored by the Josephine Theatre with a musical tribute to U.S.O. shows and patriotism called "Oh Say Can You Swing Some More!"

The sequel to the original "Oh Say Can You Swing," that premiered in San Antonio last year, is a high-energy, toe-tapping musical review of nostalgic hit songs from America's past.

"It's a salute to patriotism honoring members of America's Armed Forces who served our beloved country," said Missy Miller, the show's director and choreographer.

Miller, who collaborated on the original show and the sequel with musical director Darrin Dzergowski, said they staged this offering because of the original show's popularity which forced the theatre to extend the musical review's run.

Miller also said the amount of musical material not included in the original show inspired them to produce a sequel.

Featuring highlights from the original production, the sequel features 100 songs that transport audiences back in time beginning with the early years of the Great Depression, through the Swing Era flavored by early Latin numbers, to World War II.



Courtesy photo

The musical tribute, "Oh Say Can You Swing Some More!" is a sequel to the original production that premiered in San Antonio last year. The musical features a tribute to the Armed Forces and offers discounted tickets prices to servicemembers and veterans.

Performed by a live swing band and an ensemble cast, the musical review showcases various eras divided in two acts. Historical narration introduces each era that is presented through vignettes, medleys and full-scale production numbers.

The core of the show is its tribute to the Armed Forces. Two segments specifically pay tribute to military veterans through U.S.O. shows' wartime songs such as "Over There" to Big Band Era hits such as "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy."

Among the composers whose music is revived through song and dance numbers are Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, George M. Cohan and Glenn Miller.

Miller said the show will run indefinitely.

Performances are held Fridays and Saturdays at 8:15 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. A dance, featuring the swing band, is held for patrons an hour before each show.

Tickets are discounted for veterans who are active duty, reserve or retired.

For reservations or additional information, call 734-4646 or visit the Josephine Theatre box office at 339 W. Josephine St.

The box office is closed Mondays.



Bataan Death March survivor commemorates MIA/POW Day

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

On a day when his active duty kin remembered veterans who paid the ultimate price for freedom, Abel Ortega drew strength from the Christian faith that had sustained and comforted him during the darkest days of his life as a Bataan Death March survivor.

In surprisingly good health at 84, this southerner who lives near Brooks spent the nationally observed MIA/POW Day, commemorated earlier this month, at a ceremony hosted by the Air Intelligence Agency at Lackland Air Force Base. In past years, he has participated in similar ceremonies at Brooks while remembering some of the 67,000 Allied prisoners who died during the 70-mile trek through the Bataan peninsula in the Philippines.

"We don't call ourselves POWs. We call ourselves 'slaves of war,'" said Ortega, referring to their brutal ordeal, a consequence of Imperial Japan's invasion of the U.S.-held Philippines.

Ortega's story of survival would have otherwise gone unnoticed here if it were not for a friend who dropped by the 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs Office with an extraordinarily compelling National Archives wartime photograph of Ortega's handiwork. The photo depicts flags of Allied POWs who had endured the Death March, banners Ortega designed and had made from parachutes used to drop



“ We don't call ourselves POWs. We call ourselves 'slaves of war.' ”

Abel Ortega
Bataan Death March survivor

food to liberated but starving prisoners.

"When Japan surrendered, a warrant officer in charge of our camp asked me to make flags from parachutes used by B-29 bombers to drop food to us in 50-gallon drums," recalls Ortega. He was the logical choice for the morale-lifting project. Ortega had earned the respect of his fellow POWs as the camp artist who earned extra food and water rations for his sketches of them.

Ortega brought his designs of the British, Australian, U.S. and Dutch flags to a Japanese tailor who was ordered to make the flags from different colored parachutes.

"We displayed the flags on carved bamboo poles. Fellow prisoners confiscated Japanese musical instruments from a nearby village. We had an emotional flag-raising ceremony for each country (represented by POWs), accompanied by their national anthem. It wasn't anything like the San Antonio Symphony, but it was beautiful to us. We were free," recalls Ortega.

The El Paso native, who helped bury emaciated and mutilated comrades who died during the Death March at a rate of 100 per day, will never forget the brutality of his captors or the single-mindedness of its leaders to exploit a defeated enemy.

Japanese forces had simultaneously attacked Pearl Harbor and the Philippines in December 1941. By April 1942, American, British and Filipino forces had fallen in Bataan. A month later, Allied forces on the island fortress of Corregidor, located off the Bataan peninsula at the mouth of Manila Bay, surrendered.

"They (Japanese) didn't have anything set up to handle prisoners. They wouldn't let us eat or drink for days. They forced us to walk 70 miles in groups of 100 four men abreast. A lot of men who had fallen out of line were bayoneted or had their heads chopped off," Ortega said.

They were herded to interior camps, temporary stops enroute to slave labor camps elsewhere in the Philippines and Japan. "So many died that we didn't have time to bury them properly. We just slushed some mud over them and hung their dogtags on a cross."

Ortega was initially put to work building bridges. "I never lost hope because of my Christian upbringing. I trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ to get me through it. Some others who did not have a church background gave up and died," Ortega confessed.

Ortega was one of five brothers who served during WWII. "I was the first to be drafted in the Army in March 1941," he recalls. A half-track driver, Ortega volunteered to serve in the Pacific Theater with the 192nd Tank Battalion. He was guarding the perimeter of Clark Air Base when Japanese bombers, then fighters, attacked the base Dec. 8, 1941 (Dec. 7 in Hawaii.)

"I let them have it with my 50-caliber machine gun. There was so much smoke from the bombs falling that I



Courtesy photo

British, Australian, U.S. and Dutch flags, made from parachutes, were flown on bamboo poles during emotional flag-raising ceremonies in a Japanese camp.

didn't know if I hit any of them."

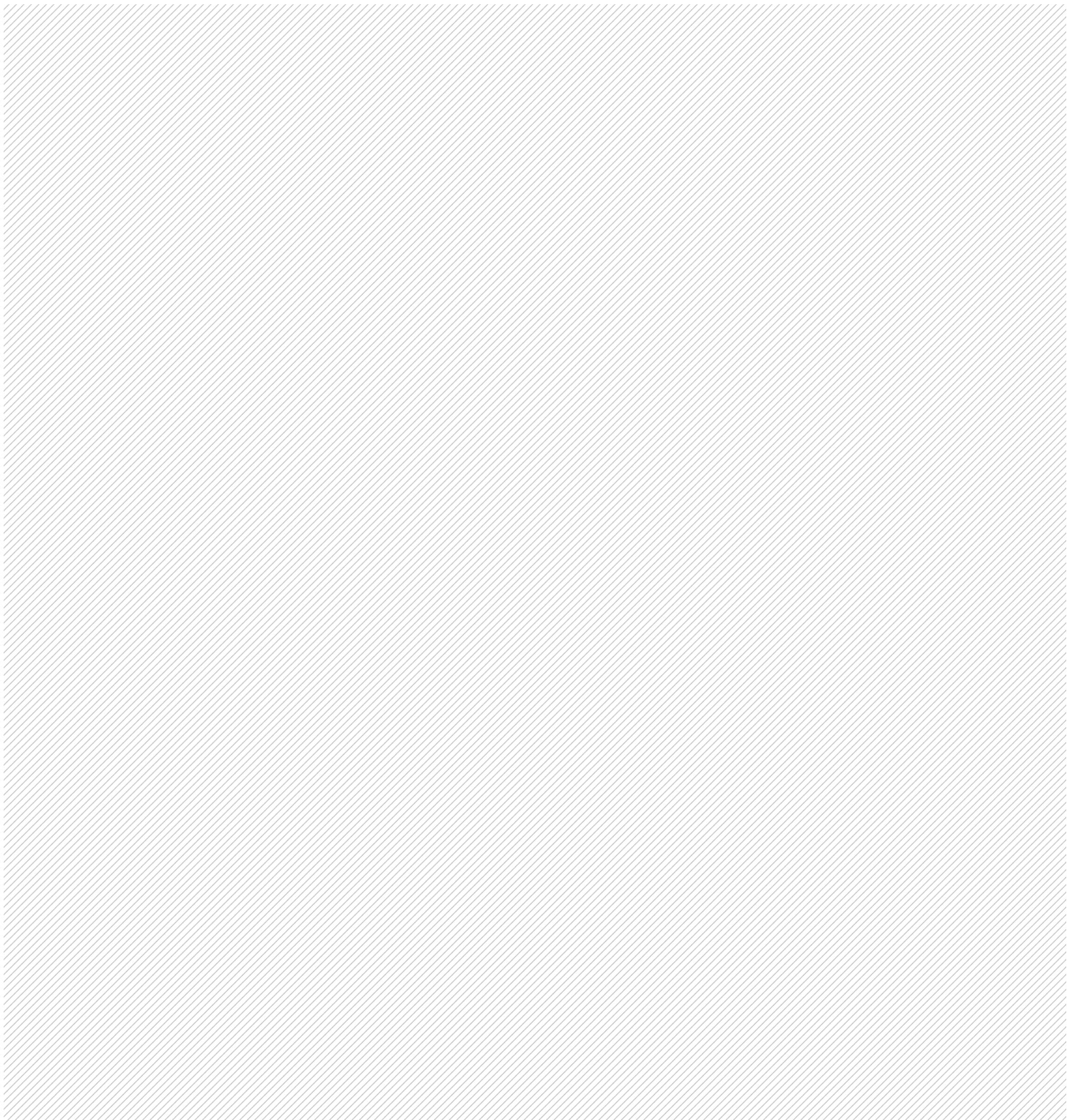
His unit fought a retrograde (retreat) operation to the Bataan peninsula situated in the northern Luzon province. "We didn't have any food left. We started to eat anything that moved, including water buffalo, snakes and even cavalry horses," he said.

During his captivity, Ortega discovered that not all Japanese soldiers were cold-blooded killers. "There was a guard who had protruding buck teeth that we called Bugs Bunny. He would hide sugar in his rifle barrel for us," Ortega conveyed.

Ortega learned the Japanese language enough to know that he and his comrades were being shipped to Japan aboard "hell ships." These unmarked cargo vessels earned that moniker because U.S. submarines, unaware that their targets carried Allied prisoners, sunk many of them.

Ortega survived that experience and a subsequent "living hell" working in a sugar mill near Nagasaki. "The cloud (from the atomic bomb) blew over our camp," he recalls.

Six years later, Ortega earned his second and third Purple Heart medals for wounds received as an infantryman during the Korean War. His experiences are being chronicled in a book being written by his son Abel Jr. who plans to feature the photo of his dad's flags, a symbol of freedom that the elder Ortega relishes.





Broadcast

Continued from Page 1

Five years ago, the radio show's San Antonio topics focused on the Texas bat population and the Edwards Aquifer.

Allen said a scheduling program at the Witte Museum prompted her organization to look elsewhere for a venue host.

Contributing to their decision to use Brooks was the rapport TPR established with base leaders in January when the organization held a successful membership fundraiser at Hangar 9 that was part of their "Hands On" cultural adventure series.

Flatow plugged Brooks City-Base on his program during a promotional lead-in to the show. His glowing remarks to a national radio audience were based on his tour of the site conducted by the 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs Office.

"Ira thinks this is a great place," said Allen, who accompanied him on the tour that included visits to the 311th Human Systems Program Office and its Life Sciences Equipment Lab, the base's residential fuel cell project and the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's centrifuge and hyperbaric chambers.

The show's amiable host warmed up the audience by conveying how leaders here initially misunderstood that he was going to discuss Air Force missions.

"We're going to talk about the San Antonio Missions," he said, joking that the discussion wasn't going to involve the local Texas League team.

The first hour, dubbed "The Texas Wind Rush," featured a panel of experts from the state's wind industry. They included Walter Hornaday, president of Cielo Wind Power; Joe Fulton, City Public Service's director of Research and Engineering Man-

agement; and Russel Smith, executive director of Texas Renewable Energy Industries Associates. A live feed from west Texas featured the voice of Roy Blackshear, plant manager for the Desert Sky Wind Farm in Pecos County.

Prior to the panel discussion, Flatow introduced the subject with background material he and his staff had researched.

"Texas has long been associated with oil wells, but ranks second in the nation behind California in wind-generated power, producing 900 megawatts of electricity a year," he said, adding, "CPS provides 4,000 megawatts (annually) to San Antonio. Of that, four percent comes from wind power."

Panelists addressed questions posed by the in-house audience and from listener call-ins. Among the issues discussed was the need to upgrade the state's electrical distribution grid and future wind power projects' environmental and economic impact on urban areas.

Referring to commercial consumers, Fulton said, "The Air Force is the largest consumer of wind power in Bexar County."

The program's second hour focused on the conservationists' scientific efforts to prevent further environmental damage to San Antonio's four Spanish Colonial missions: San Jose, San Juan, Espada and Concepcion. Drainage and structural issues were discussed by panelists Felix Alamaraz Jr., UTSA professor of history; Cisi Jary, president of Restoration Associates; Carolyn Peterson, vice president and director of Historical Preservation and Design for Ford, Powell and Carson; and David Vekasy, facility manager at the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.



ACTIONLINE

536-2222



The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

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BXMarket.....	533-9079
Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444
for information or to register

Sponsor training

Oct. 14, 9 - 9:45 a.m., Bldg. 537—

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory for all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. Others are welcome to attend to learn about tools and resources available for sponsors

Heartlink military spouse orientation

Oct. 27, 8 a.m. - noon., Bldg. 537—

This program is designed for spouses of military members married less than five years but all military spouses are welcome. Learn about the Air Force and where you fit in, information on protocol, customs, and rank structure, military benefits and sup-

port agencies available, and tools for communicating within the Air Force. A spouse's handbook and lunch will be provided. Childcare may be provided subject to availability. Contact Tech. Sgt. Austin Peoples at 536-2444 for specific details and additional information.

Separation and retirement

Oct. 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Bldg. 537—

This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered include pre-separation, Veterans benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, Tricare, and financial planning. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

College financial planning—529 plan

Oct. 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Bldg. 537—

The section 529 college financial plan provides for a qualified tuition program that offers special benefits for those who wish to fund a child's college education. One of two types of plans under this program is the Prepaid Education Services Account. This account purchases tuition credits or certificates at today's current tuition rates for use in the future and can be state sponsored or sponsored by a private institution. The other type of plan is the Education Savings Account where contributions are established for meeting higher education expenses and is only state sponsored. Come to class and learn all the details to start funding your child's education

To register for class, make an appointment or for more information, call the Family Support Center at 536-2444 or Toll Free at 877-747-5938.


Photo by Dale Eckroth

A strong reminder

The Brooks Golf Course, along with roads and bridges on base were severely flooded, a result of storms that passed through southern Texas last week. The rains were a vivid reminder of the danger posed by flash flooding. The National Weather Service and Texas Department of Public Safety warn motorists to "Turn Around, Don't Drown," the slogan for their recent campaign, intended to remind motorists to avoid flooded water crossings.

Campaign

Continued from Page 1

to Owen at the kickoff presentation.

"Think about how important the CFC is for the quality of life for all Americans," she said.

During the ceremony, speakers impressed upon the crowd the importance of these donations to the operating capability of local charities and reminded audience members that they could benefit from the services in the future, if they haven't in the past.

Lola Dzierzanski, a representative from Meals on Wheels, gave a presentation about the assistance provided by her association and explained the need they have for donated funds.

Last year Brooks surpassed its goal of \$253,000, raising \$315,000 for various charities.

"San Antonio was one of the very few cities that was able to raise more in 2002 than

2001," said Alex Slate, the loaned executive for Brooks.

San Antonio has a total of 33 loaned executives, employees from various organizations who donate four months of time to help United Way run the CFC. For every dollar donated, United Way ensures 93 cents go directly to the intended charities with the other seven cents covering overhead expenses.

The Brooks' goal for 2003 is again \$253,000. No other base-wide fundraising events are firmly planned, though a golf tournament may be scheduled in October. Various organizations also can run individual fundraising events. Organizations have key volunteers to assist personnel with donating and also answer questions about the campaign, which ends Oct. 30.

"It's got to come from your heart," Slate said. "Give what you can."



Brooks kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month with Mariachi

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

The Brooks community kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a Mariachi Mass at the base chapel Sept. 15.

The four-person Mariachi band played lively, spiritual music and Fr. Joe Avila from St. Joseph's Parish presided over the ceremony. Brooks does not have a permanent Catholic chaplain.

"Mariachi just makes it more alive," said Esmeralda "Mere" Rodriguez, coordinator of the Mass. "It's a beautiful tradition."

Those attending the Mass responded well to the music, singing and dancing to the recessional hymn.

The Mass focused on the Blessed Virgin Mary, an important figure in the Catholic religion and especially in the Hispanic religious culture.

"She's very important," Rodriguez said. "God gave her to us. She's the vessel where the Word made flesh became known to us."

In keeping with the Hispanic festivities, volunteers decorated the chapel in bright colored cloths, covering the altar and the pulpit. The deacon wore a sash adorned with a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"We're trying to share our culture with all of the community," Rodriguez said. She also added she had no trouble finding volunteers or obtaining donations.

After the Mass, attendees enjoyed a Mexican meal in the chapel annex. Leftover food was donated to the St. Vincent de Paul dining hall, a Catholic charity that provides meals to the needy.

Hispanic Heritage Month continues through mid-October, honoring the contri-

butions of Hispanics to the U.S.

In addition to political, cultural and social contributions, Hispanics have played an important role in America's military. New Mexican National Guard units were the first to fire on the Japanese in World War II. During the Vietnam War, Hispanics constituted 25 percent of the casualties though they made up only 4.5 percent of the U.S. total population. Seven Hispanic Americans have received the Medal of Honor.

Events celebrating Hispanic culture continue at Brooks throughout the month. September 17, three volunteers read Dora the Explorer books and other Hispanic culture books, from the base library, to children at the Brooks Child Development Center.

"Observances are designed to enhance cross-cultural awareness and promote harmony among all military members, their families and the civilian workforce. The goal of Brooks City-Base Hispanic Heritage Month is to increase awareness, mutual respect and understanding through education and celebration," said Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder, chairman of the Hispanic Heritage Month committee.

"We are reading to the children at the CDC because we believe it is important to start at an early age to learn of different cultures and also because the children enjoy us reading to them."

The committee hosts a golf tournament today at the Brooks Course. They also have a display set up in Sidney's each Thursday of the month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"The items on display at Sidney's... not only bring awareness but also educate the base population on the various ethnicities and diversity within the Hispanic race and culture," Schroeder said.

The month commemoration ends Oct. 14 with a luncheon. The Honorable Alma Lopez, Chief Justice of the 4th Court of Appeals and the first Hispanic woman in the nation to hold such a position, is the keynote speaker.

Money raised during events will benefit the Brooks Youth Center, the Brooks CDC and P.F. Stewart Elementary School.



Midweek Mass

Midweek Mass at the Brooks Chapel is held Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Mass is held each first Friday of the month and on holy days of obligation. Mass is open for the entire base Roman Catholic community. Call 536-3824 for more information about Chapel services.

Lifebuilder's series

The Lifebuilder's Lunchtime Series is back in full swing. Lifebuilder's is held Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Lunch is provided for a donation. The Lifebuilder's series is open to all base personnel.

Chapel schedule:

Weekdays:

11:30 a.m. — Mass or Eucharistic service

Wednesdays:

noon — Lifebuilders luncheon

5:30 p.m. — Protestant choir rehearsal

6:30 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Sundays:

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass

10:30 a.m. — Protestant Worship, includes children's church

The regular Chapel schedule resumes at the end of the summer.





Education notes

By Carolyn Croft-Foster
Brooks Education Services Office
536-3617

Upper Iowa University

UIU offers classes at Brooks beginning in October. The university allows students to complete degrees through its Military Campus Resident Centers, online, or through external degree programs. The programs offered at Brooks include Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Administration, Public Administration, Technology and Information Management, Human Resource Management, Human Services and Management. Information pamphlets are available in the Education Office or visit the Upper Iowa Web site at: www.uiu.edu or call 536-3617. UIU has a Partnership Advantage Agreement with Palo Alto College.

Upper Iowa also offers a "Math-Haters" course, accepted by the Community College of the Air Force as the math requirement. For more information contact Maggi.

Flex 2 On-Base Classes

Registration is underway for Fall Flex 2 classes with Palo Alto College. On-base classes include Government and Intermediate Algebra. The representative visits Brooks Tuesdays. For more information or to schedule an appointment with the ACCD representative, call 536-3617.

Embry-Riddle programs

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers Master of Aeronautical Science, Bachelor of Professional Aeronautics and Bachelor of Technical Management programs at Randolph Air Force Base. Plans are underway for a southside teaching location in 2004. An Embry-Riddle representative will provide academic counseling sessions at the Brooks Education Office Wednesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Interested individuals may call 659-0801 to schedule an appointment.

CLEP tests retire

The College Board is retiring paper-based CLEP tests. The following exams will be retired Nov. 30: General English, General Mathematics, Accounting, American History I and II, and Spanish. In January the following exams will be recalled: Social Sciences and History, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, College Algebra, Freshman College Composition, Psychology and Principles of Management. All remaining exams will be retired March 31, 2004. Computer-based CLEP exams are available but service members cannot currently request reimbursement. The Brooks Education Services Office offers CLEP testing Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Fridays at 8 a.m. Call 536-3617 for additional information or to reserve a seat.

National Graduate School

The National Graduate School offers a program to finish a bachelor's degree in one year and then complete a master's de-

"Education is the key to success."

gree in one additional year. The representative, Kassie Mendez, visits Brooks Wednesdays from 9-11a.m. Call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment or visit the Web site at: www.NGS.edu.

DANTES/DSST fees

The fee for DANTES transcripts for military members increases to \$20 Oct. 3. The cost of DSST exams for civilians also increases to \$45. Contact the Education Center for details.

Air Force Virtual Education Center

The Air Force Virtual Education Center is online. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and the Community College of the Air Force. CCAF students can also order CCAF transcripts from the site. The site also features practice tests for CLEP exams. To access the AFVEC go to the following Web site and establish an account at: <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>. Call the Education Center at 536-3617 for details.

Discover online

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program is available for use by military members, civilians, and family members. For additional information, call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment to review the Web site and get started.

Texas State University

Texas State University offers a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences. The BAAS degree provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to capitalize on prior work and training experiences. Students pursuing this degree may transfer semester hours previously earned, individualize the degree plan with major emphasis in an occupational field of choice, and earn semester hour credit for work and life experience and training conducted by business, industry and military. Night classes are available in the San Antonio and San Marcos area. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 536-3618.

AWC Nonresident Seminar

Recruiting for the 2004 academic year for the Air War College Nonresident Seminar Program is underway. Seminar meetings are held weekly and began in August. The weekly meetings run until mid-June 2004.

Applications are available at: www.maxwell.af.mil/au/awc/ns/ns-enroll.htm. Bring completed applications to Education Services in Bldg. 558 or call 536-3618 for assistance and specific details.

ACSC Nonresident Seminar

The Education and Training Center is seeking eligible major, major-selectees, GS-11s and above for the ACSC Nonresident Seminar Program. Nonresident seminars meet each week through June 2004. The course grants Phase 1 Joint PME credit, Intermediate Service School credit, up to 27 semester hours of graduate course work, and reserve points as determined by AFPC. Seminars need eight enrollments per site.

To register, visit Education Services to complete an ACSC application, or call 536-3618 for more information.



Air Force climate survey launches Oct. 1

By Richard Salomon

Air Force Manpower and Innovation Agency Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Air Force leaders at all levels want to know, "How is my organization doing?" The 2003 Air Force Climate Survey begins Oct. 1 to answer this question with the help of Air Force people.

Their participation in the survey is critical, said senior leaders.

"Leadership must be made aware of what's really going on out there," said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche.

"By taking a few brief moments to fill out this survey, you can help your leaders understand your concerns and ultimately better serve you and our nation's interests," he said.

Previous surveys included active-duty airmen and appropriated-fund civilians. This year, the survey also will include the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, non-appropriated fund civilians and students in a temporary-duty status.

"We want to make sure all members of the Air Force team have an opportunity to participate," said Lori Marcum, the survey's team leader. "Leaders at all levels use the Air Force Climate Survey to target areas for improvement. In order to create positive changes within an organization, (leaders) must know where to begin. This survey provides everyone an opportunity to speak out about strengths and areas for improvement in their organization."

The survey runs through Nov. 23 and can be completed online at: <http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil> anytime during the survey period from either a government computer (dot-mil) or personal computer (dot-com).

Because Air Force leaders expect candid feedback, the survey team has taken extraordinary measures to ensure privacy by using advanced information-masking software. Anonymity continues to be a key

factor of the survey, officials said.

Results will be released early in 2004, said Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff.

"The U.S. Air Force is the finest in the world, a great place to serve and raise our families. We share a commitment to make it better," he said.

Survey participation has climbed from 39 percent in 1997 and 36 percent in 1999 to more than 65 percent of active-duty airmen and civilians in the 2002 survey.

The 45th Space Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., used the data from the 2002 survey as a powerful tool for change. Patrick's leaders created a performance plan called START for "Synchronize actions," "Trust people," "All accountable," "Recognize achievement" and "Tenacious execution."

The plan emphasized mentoring and individual development. It provided mission focus with clear and measurable goals, according to base officials.

Even though the base scored high in most factors, base leaders wanted to make life at Patrick even better, said Judy Nicholson, START director.

"We knew from the Air Force survey that we could improve in some areas. The work the commanders did reviewing the survey feedback resulted in START," she said. The wing commander said he continually reviews the survey results to make sure the wing is on the right track.

"START is a direct result of the Air Force survey, so we place a great deal of value on the survey data," he said.

"Because of the survey, we've been able to make improvements at all levels, from top to bottom."

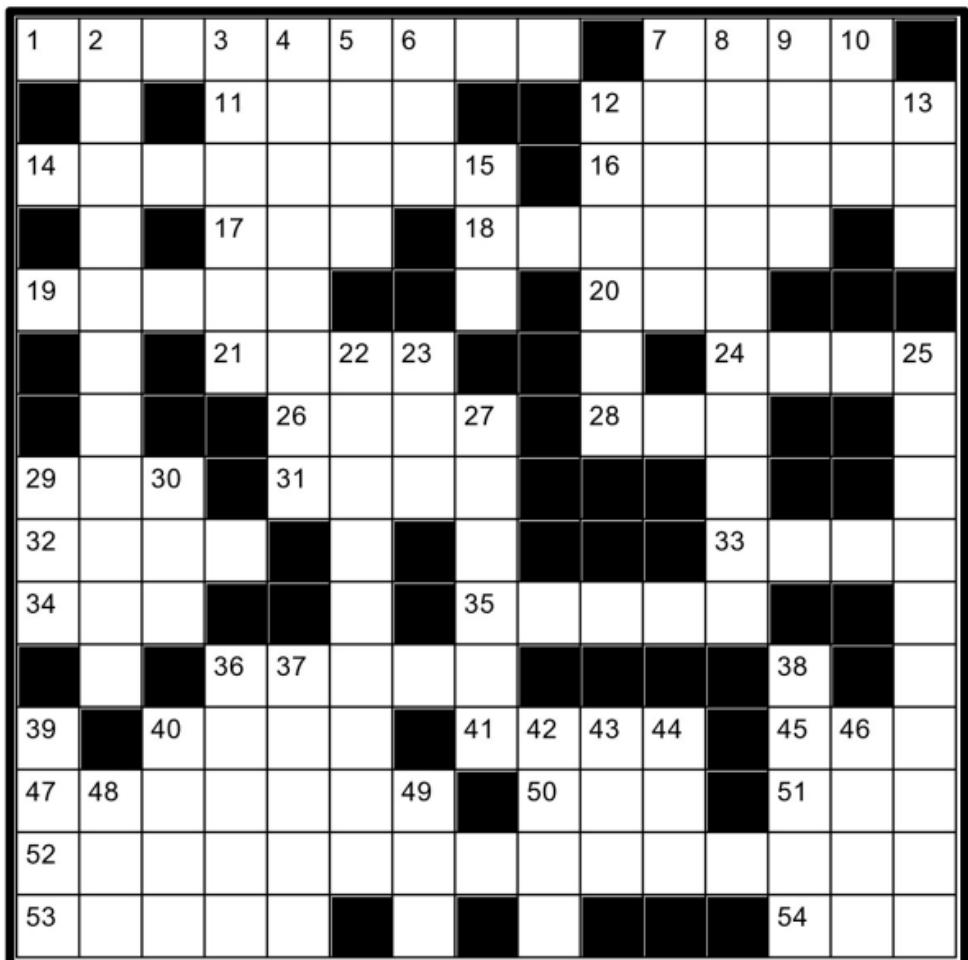
The 2003 Air Force Climate Survey will cover 13 factors that measure work experience: job; resources; core values; leadership; supervision; training and development; teamwork; participation and involvement; recognition; unit flexibility; general satisfaction; unit performance outcomes and job enhancement.



Operations to Go

By 1Lt Tony Wickman

Alaskan Command Public Affairs



See Solution, Page 21

ACROSS

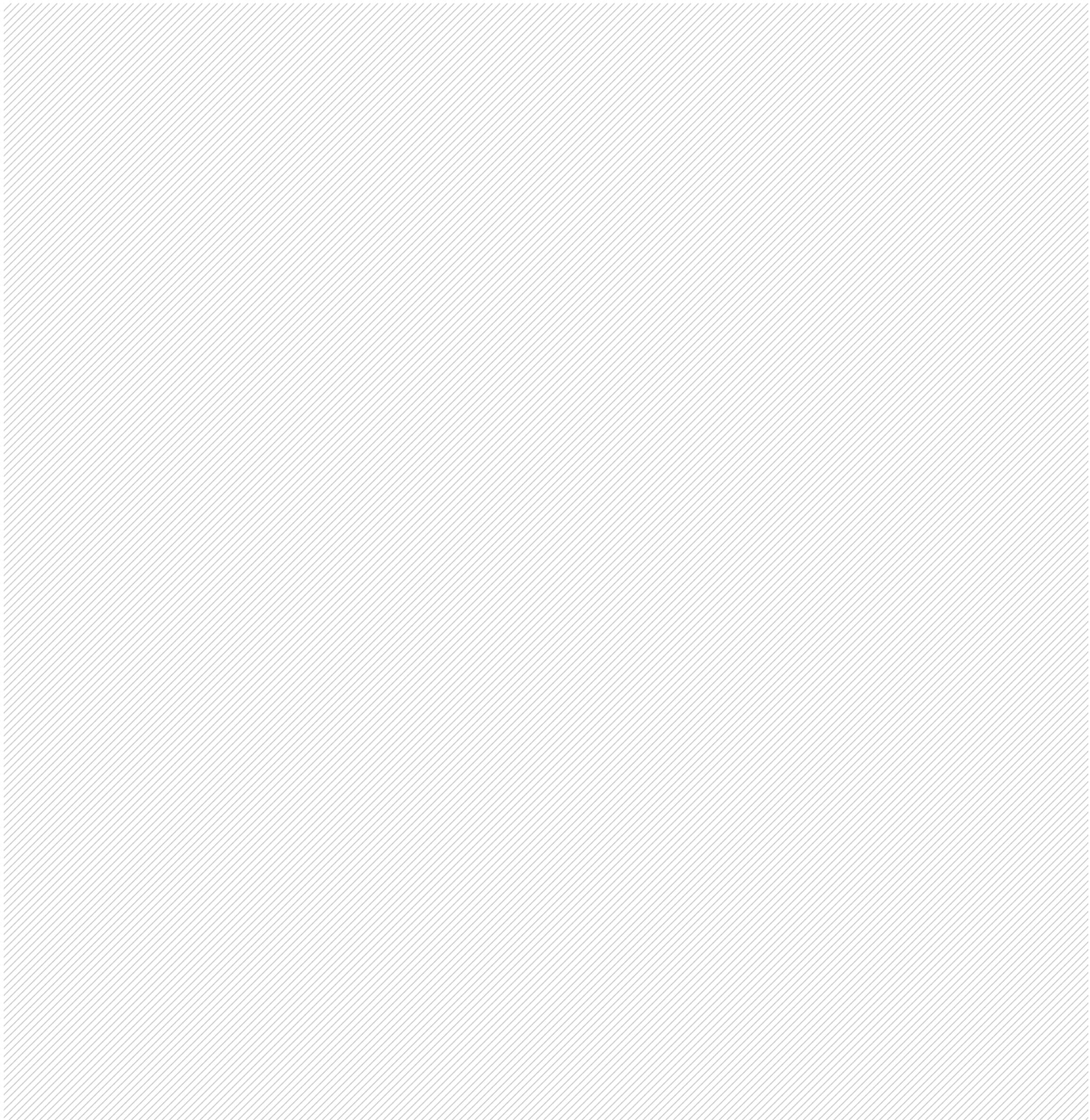
1. 1980 Operation to rescue American hostages in Iran
7. Pack animal
11. San Francisco Giants manager Felipe _____
12. Gables and Sea
14. Liquid holders
16. Type of socks
17. Older computer operating system
18. Magnifying glasses
19. Switch
20. Japanese currency
21. St. Louis team
24. Blue-green color
26. Deafening noises
28. Command structure between MAJCOMs and MOBs
29. Female deer
31. Capital of Norway
32. Ages
33. Ire
34. Play
35. Singer Chuck _____
36. Arena
40. Post
41. Current
45. Grouping of special staff concerned with tac ops (abbrev.)
47. Advice
50. Zero
51. Place Mork was from
52. 1995 operation to destroy Bosnian military sites/facilities
53. Glasses
54. Precursor to the CIA

DOWN

2. 1999 Kosovo air campaign against Serbian forces
3. Fireman tool
4. 1986 operation to attack Libyan terrorist sites (part 1)
5. Sprinter Sebastian and director Peter _____
6. Nomadic Moslem people in Iran's Zagros Mtns
7. Type of code
8. 1983 operation to protect Americans in Grenada
9. Installs
10. Kitchen extension
12. Second part of 4 Down
13. Body of water
15. Nickname for Stallone
22. X-Mas kissing site
23. NBC comedy show (abbrev.)
25. 1972 air campaign to stop North Vietnamese offensive
27. A frozen dessert fruit juice
29. Federal drug agency (abbrev.)
30. Dine
36. Type of boom
37. Baby places
38. 1991 Operation Desert _____; Liberated Kuwait
39. Signals
40. Record
42. Madonna, "Get _____ the groove."
43. Mold
44. Lord of the Rings character
46. Killer whale
48. Zest
49. Gun lobby



DISCOVERY **15**
Sept. 26, 2003





Commemoration

Continued from Page 1

At first, the ceremony was like any other held on a military installation. The honor guard posted the colors, the chaplain said a prayer, someone sang the National Anthem, the vice-commander of the wing said a few words. Then, as people finished washed down their last bite of sweetness with rush of coffee, the tone of the ceremony changed.

The speakers called the audience attention to the fully-set, round table in front of the seats. They read a document explaining the symbols on the table. On the POW/MIA table. Four members of the honor guard carried four hats, one from each military branch, through the now silent hangar and set them on the table. Then, in unison, they lifted the glasses and replaced them upside down to symbolize those who could not, and may not ever again, enjoy the doughy feel of a Krispy Kreme that day.

The mood remained serious, though not longing, as guest speaker Lt. Col. (ret.) Richard Ogershok informed the crowd about studies being done on Agent Orange and what retirees can do to evaluate and protect themselves.

"We did this...to let retirees know what the agent can do and how to get checked," Ogershok said.

After his speech, and the audience questions, the mood swung again, this time to a lighter, happier feel as door prizes were handed out and the crowd again mingled and sampled the wares of the booths.

"We try to do it all on the same day because we wanted everyone to be able to do everything on the same day," said Maj. Deborah Olson, also a co-organizer of the events. "It's a beautiful display of teamwork between active duty and retirees to pull this off. It's very important because we both bring something to the table."

Most of the attendees were retired, reconnecting with the military and enjoying the displays.

"I decided to find out what goes on at (an RAD event)," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Lee Thomas. "When you live in San Antonio you're going to be associated with both active duty and retired military."

Dorman Roberts and his wife Jimmie stay in close contact with the military and retired community.

"It just sounded like something we were interested in," Jimmie said.

Her husband agreed.

"I like to know what's going on," he said. "Just because I'm out doesn't mean I don't care."

A retiree activities volunteer, who manned an AARP booth, has very personal connections to both the retiree appreciation and POW/MIA factors of the day. Lt. Col. Albert Nickles was shot down over Italy during World War II, escaping capture by the enemy only because the Italian Underground saved him first. With all his bones broken, Nickles remained with the Underground until the Allies could rescue him.

"A lot of my friends were POWs," Nickles said.

He also remarked on the difference between pilots then and now.

"You were grateful you could fly and you did. You flew the airplane," Nickles said. "The age of World War II is not going to exist anymore, they need to (learn) all the new gadgets and technology. We're going to fight terrorism probably for the rest of our lives. That's what we're going to be fighting."

Nickles wasn't the only retired lieutenant colonel pilot in attendance. Clyde Wilson and his wife Barbara also partook in the festivities.

"We are retirees and we thought it would be beneficial for us," Barbara said. "We've come out before. This is wonderful to be in the old hangar here. Sometimes it's just from nostalgia."

The event committee provided a free lunch complete with cake, launching the event into the afternoon portion. Throughout the day, Brooks personnel took 10-minute shifts, standing silent vigil in front of a wreath placed at the flagpole outside Bldg. 150.

The afternoon guest speaker, who gave his presentation at the Brooks Club, was Adrian Cronauer of Good Morning Vietnam fame. He now works for Defense POW and Missing Personnel Office.

"It's amazing how few people know what we do," he said.

The day ended with retreat at the headquarters building. Cronauer again spoke, this time about pride in being an American and pride in being a member of the U.S. military, and Randolph Air Force Base provided a fly-over.

As the honor guard removed the wreath and the troops and audience dispersed, the flag blew in the wind bright against the gray sky. It served as a symbol of the day, honoring retirees who have weathered the storms of their day and reminding onlookers that freedom isn't free and many are still paying the price. Each flap of the Stars and Stripes echoed the words in so many hearts — We will never forget.

Retiree Appreciation, POW/MIA Day 2003

Photos by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.



The Brooks Honor Guard stood the first shift, which began before dawn, of the day-long silent vigil at the Bldg. 150 flag pole on POW/MIA Day. Throughout the day, personnel stood shifts, a tribute to our missing or fallen servicemembers.



Brooks military personnel stand in formation as the American flag is lowered during Retreat, marking the end of the Retiree Appreciation Day, POW/MIA Day events at Brooks. The flag was lowered to Taps, played by the Air Force Band of the West, assigned to Lackland Air Force Base.



Members of the Brooks Honor Guard performed numerous ceremonial honors during Retiree Appreciation, POW/MIA Day events, such as the official table ceremony they completed here in Hangar 9.



A living legend speaks at Brooks

By Rita Boland

Staff Writer

Adrian Cronauer, whose military career Robin Williams (loosely) portrayed in *Good Morning Vietnam*, spoke at the Brooks Club Sept. 19 as part of Retiree Appreciation Day and POW/MIA Day events.

Cronauer works in the Defense POW and Missing Personnel Office as the special assistant to the director. "We are still trying to find them all," he said. "We consider it a moral obligation to do that...Our goal is to have the fullest possible accounting of all of the missing."

Cronauer began his speech explaining the differences between the movie and actual events and shared amusing anecdotes about his celebrity. While at a party, a woman pointed to him and told her husband, "That's Adrian Cronauer from *Good Morning Vietnam*." Her husband replied, "It can't be. He doesn't look anything like Robin Williams."

After the humor, Cronauer became serious as he explained the tasking of his office.

"Every single report is followed up," he said. "And we have to do that. It would be wrong to do otherwise."

Around 88,000 servicemembers are still missing from conflicts back to World War II. Most of those, 78,000, are missing from the second World War, 8,000 are missing from Korea, 2,000 are missing from Vietnam, 130 from the Cold War and one from the first Gulf War.

Most of the work done by the office is identifying remains, but they also investigate reported sightings.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Adrian Cronauer, Assistant to the Director in the Defense POW and Missing Personnel Office, shares a humorous moment about the "Good Morning, Vietnam," screenplay during his appearance as a guest speaker at the Brooks Club. Cronauer addressed Brooks audiences twice during Retiree Appreciation, POW/MIA Day events.

"If there is a live American being held anywhere, we will drop anything to follow up on those reports," Cronauer said.

Since 1975, 22,000 live sighting reports have come from Vietnam alone, some resulting from found dog tags or planes, while 28 percent are pure fabrication.

In North Korea, 35 joint searches with the North Koreans have resulted in 178 identifications. At the beginning of the second Gulf War, rumors circulated that a Navy pilot captured in the first conflict may still survive as an Iraqi prisoner, and the POW and Missing Personnel Office will search for him until he is found.

"The bottom line is we have no credible evidence he's alive," Cronauer said. "We also have no credible evidence he's dead. We just don't know."

The Defense POW and Missing Personnel Office employs both military and civilian, demanding long hours and great dedication.

"These are people who care very, very much about what they're doing," Cronauer said.

He also said he felt guilty about getting out of the military and not doing more for his country, then his wife gave him a new perspective when he was offered his current job. "Did it ever occur to you...you might be able to accomplish more than you ever could in uniform?" she asked.

Doing more includes keeping abreast of the strides the government takes to improve identification and location of troops. Now, all military members give small blood samples which are stored, vacuum sealed, in a huge fridge so remains can be identified more easily.

Cronauer's office also helps the families of the missing. The department holds banquets in various locations for the families who live within a 300-mile radius. The families hear a presentation, receive information on their specific loved one, and can speak to an office expert on the conflict from which their loved one is missing.

"This is the most rewarding thing I can think of in our job," Cronauer said.

Cronauer ended his speech on an up-note explaining that he was a better DJ than Williams. He said that Williams dragged out the word Vietnam, but any good morning DJ would know to draw out the "good" in "Good Morning Vietnam" because a morning DJ will be late. He took about one minute to finish saying the word as he mimed searching for his albums, putting on his headphones and even putting in his contacts, amid laughter from the crowd.

Cronauer also delivered an address at the retreat ceremony the same day outside the headquarters building, about taking pride in America and the military.

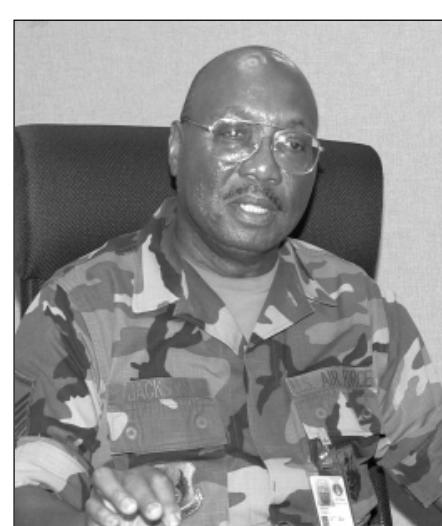
Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil



Medical personnel from the 311th Medical Squadron performed health screenings, such as blood pressure checks, for guests at the Retiree Appreciation Day events at Brooks.



The military, past and present, came together to honor the contributions of retirees and veterans during the Retiree Appreciation Day events at Brooks Sept. 19.



Jackson

Q&A

FULL NAME:
Master Sgt. Tyrone L. Jackson

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Mobility Superintendent,
311th Mobility Support Group

WHAT IS MY JOB?
I make sure our folks deploying from Brooks have exactly what they need, in terms of their chemical gear.

BIRTHDAY:
Nov. 21, 1945

HOMETOWN:
Clearwater, Fla.

FAMILY STATUS:
Married

NICKNAME:
Chilijack- there is a story behind that!

MOTTO:
"If it's impossible, that means it takes a little longer to do."

INSPIRATIONS:
My wife and daughter and my brother and sister

HOBBIES:
Flying model planes and barbecuing

PET PEEVE:
Those who will not try

BOOK(S) AT BEDSIDE:
the Bible

I JOINED THE MILITARY:
because I like the orderly way of life the Air Force offered me. It also gave me an opportunity to travel to parts of the world I had read about in school.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:
I want my wife to experience many of the countries that I have served in, courtesy of the U.S. Air Force.

ULTIMATE GOAL:
is to be a testimony to young men and women as to why it is wise to join the U.S. Air Force.

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:
pay off personal bills and help deserving family members that are trying to help themselves.

FAVORITE MUSIC:
jazz and blues

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:
is joining the Air Force.

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:
is my new 2003 PT Cruiser, compliments of the Air Force.

Brooks Personality PROFILE

Feature

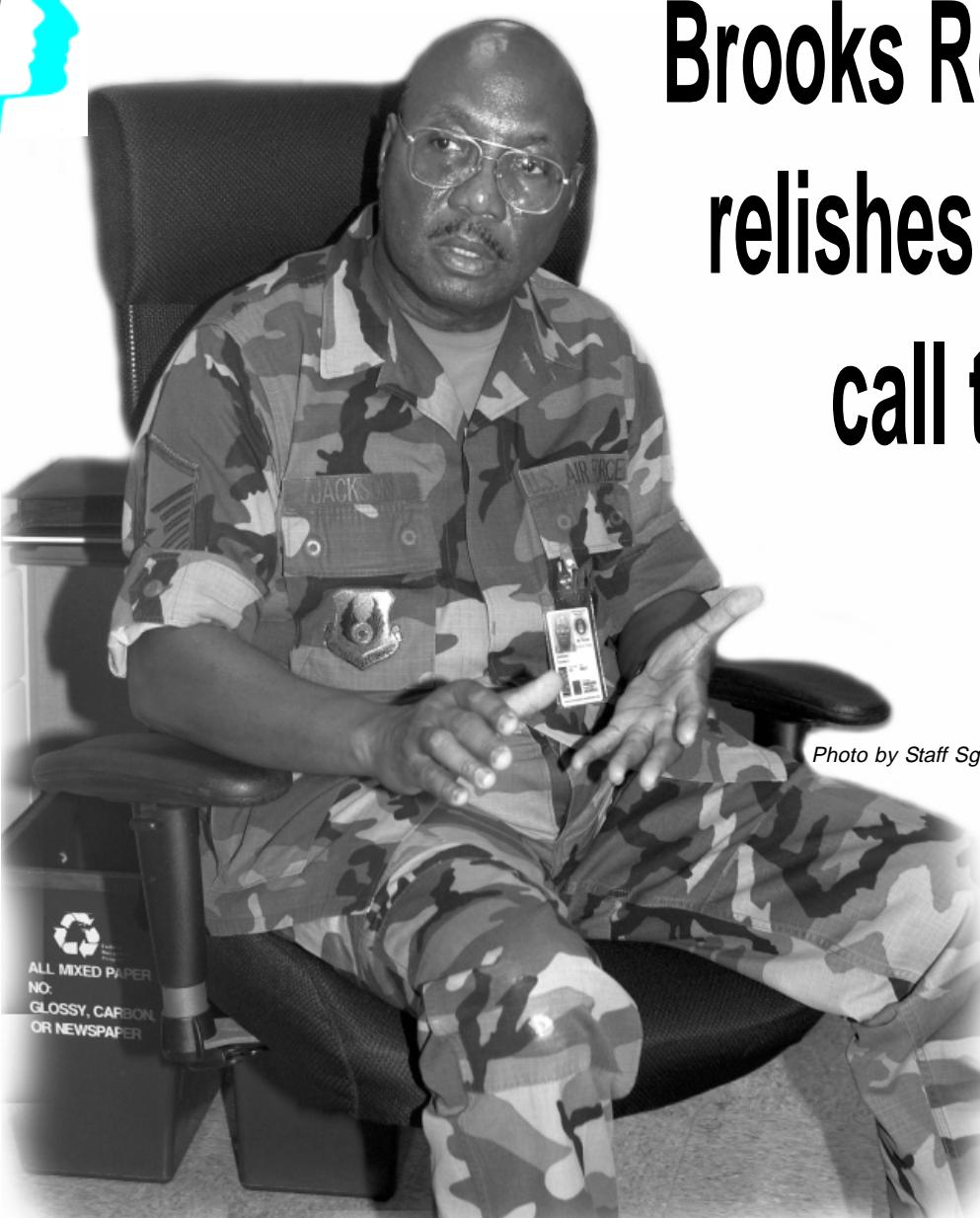


Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Brooks Reservist relishes the call to duty

and words to breathe life into his passion.

"Each time you barbecue... it's never the same taste twice," he said. "The biggest thing is getting the fire right."

Jackson said he takes his time getting everything prepared just how he wants it. He marinates ribs a day in advance so they have time to absorb the flavors. He tends to his coals and his fire carefully, not rushing, ensuring that during cooking his meats won't be ruined by flare-ups. Jackson also selects wood chips to help flavor his food and pecan is one of his favorites.

"Pecan wood gives it a sweet taste," he said.

Jackson also shared a little chef's secret. When he barbecues, he always has a little something extra on the side, usually a T-bone, that he starts before the other food and eats as he grills.

"A cook can't cook hungry," he revealed.

In addition to the great meals and good times a barbecue always brings about, Jackson likes to have cook-outs to spend more time with family and friends, a very important part of his life.

"Indeed it is," he said with a firm nod of his head, sitting back in his chair and stretching his arms.

Jackson has a brother who lives in the same Florida town, a brother in Detroit and a sister in New York and a daughter in Orlando, Fla.

"She's a daddy's girl," he said.

Despite his strong relationship with his daughter, among all his loved ones, Jackson's wife holds his closest bond.

"She always been my biggest backer-upper, she's always boosted me," he said.

His wife supported him through all his deployments with the Air Force Reserves, understanding how

strongly Jackson feels about the military. When his unit called to activate him 22 months ago he said he needed to check with his wife, but Jackson knew that she'd say yes.

He makes up for their time apart though, treating her to moonlight champagne on the beach, flowers for no reason, and jewelry.

"I'm a Scorpio with a capital 'S,'" Jackson said. "I love to see the look on her face."

In ways, his relationship with his wife mirrors that of his relationship with the Air Force. Both involve some give and take - Jackson gives him time and dedication and the Air Force gave him an education and pay - and a lot of dedication.

"The closer I get to retirement, the sadder I get," Jackson said. "If I could stay in 100 years I would. I always wear (my uniform) proudly. In uniform, I'm always very prideful."

The routine and structure of the military fit in well with Jackson's regimented personality. He said the first day in boot camp when he heard the bugle, he knew he loved the Air Force. As he progressed through the ranks, he learned to respect the promotions and earn the responsibilities.

"The pride and humbleness from those who saw fit to pin those stripes on me," he said, contemplating. "I don't like to let people down."

Jackson certainly didn't let anyone down during his two years at Brooks, his supervisors and co-workers all laud his effort and abilities and Jackson appreciated the time he spent here and the people he met.

He's ready to return home, though, picking up where he left off with family, friends and duties, until the military calls on him again.



National Food Safety Education Month reinforces proper techniques

2003 theme reminds consumers to 'Store it, don't ignore it'

By 1st Lt Patricia Rohrbeck
and Senior Airman Sumer Montano
311th Medical Squadron Public Health

September marks the ninth annual National Food Safety Education Month, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Services and the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. The goals of the campaign are to reinforce food safety education and training among restaurant and foodservice workers and to educate the public on handling and properly preparing food at home.

Bacteria grow most rapidly in the Danger Zone, which are the temperatures between 40 and 140 degrees F., so it is key to avoid this temperature range by quickly refrigerating foods. Refrigerator temperature should be 40

degrees F and the freezer should be set to 0 degrees F. Both should be checked periodically with an appropriate thermometer.

Since product dates aren't a guide for safe use of a product, use the following guidelines to help keep refrigerated foods from spoiling or becoming unsafe to eat by purchasing products before the "sell-by" or expiration dates, follow handling recommendations on products, keep meat and poultry in its package until just before using and if freezing meat and poultry in its original package longer than 2 months, over-wrap the packages with airtight heavy-duty foil, plastic wrap, or freezer paper, or place the package inside a plastic bag.

Foods must also remain at a safe temperature while thawing. The safest method is to defrost food in the refrigerator. Don't thaw food on the counter. Food left out at room temperature longer than 2 hours is not within a safe temperature range and may not be safe to eat. If you're short on time, thaw meat and poultry in airtight packaging in cold water, changing the water every 30 minutes. Defrost food in

the microwave only if you plan to cook it immediately.

When serving cold food at a buffet, picnic, barbecue, or when traveling with food, be aware that time, temperature, and a cold source are key to prevent food spoilage and bacterial growth. In order to keep foods at 40 degrees F or colder, keep all perishable foods chilled right up until serving time.

When serving, place food containers on ice. If you're transporting or traveling with food, always use ice or cold packs and fill your cooler with food. A full cooler will maintain its cold temperatures longer than one that is partially filled. Keep the cooler in the air-conditioned passenger compartment of your car, rather than in a hot trunk. Don't serve items like custards, cream pies, cakes with whipped-cream or cream cheese frosting when refrigeration is not possible.

If you've asked for a doggie bag to take leftovers home, remember, it should be refrigerated within 2 hours of serving, or thrown away.

Always discard any food left out at room temperature for more than 2 hours.

Foods that have been cooked ahead and cooled to at or below 40 degrees F should be reheated thoroughly to at least 165 degrees F. Reheat sauces, soups, and gravies to a boil. Foods can be reheated on the stovetop, in the oven or in the microwave. Slow cookers, steam tables or chafing dishes are not recommended for reheating because foods may stay in the Danger Zone for too long causing bacteria to multiply rapidly. Once food has been cooked or reheated properly, it should be held hot at or above 140 degrees F in the oven, on a serving line in heated chafing dishes, on preheated steam tables, warming trays, or slow cookers. Always keep hot food hot!

The idea that food on the dinner table or at a picnic can make someone sick may be disturbing, but if you follow these basic rules of food storage you can protect your families and dinner guests.

For further information about "Store it, don't ignore it" or other food safety information, please contact the Brooks Public Health Office at 536-6722 or visit the FDA Web site at www.FoodSafety.gov.



BROOKS

SPOTLIGHT

Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

A NAF Outlet Auction is scheduled for Oct. 2 beginning at noon in the back lot of Bldg. 1157, formerly the Auto Skills Center. The following items will be auctioned: 1990 E350 15 passenger Ford Van; 1964 Sears 17' V hull fiberglass boat with 110 HP in-board Volvo Penta motor with trailer; 16' flat bed utility trailer.

Items can be viewed Oct. 2 from 10 a.m. to noon. Items are sold as is with no warranties and must be removed by buyer. Cash, check and credit cards are accepted for payment.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Bonanza Bingo returns to the Brooks Club and Sidney's Oct. 1. Purchase a card and win from \$2 to \$1,000. There are 12 ways to win money: Diagonal-\$2; horizontal-\$2; four corners-\$2; postage stamp-\$2; small diamond-\$5; vertical-\$10; block of nine-\$25; large diamond-\$100; crazy letter T-\$100; crazy letter L-\$100; small picture frame — \$100; and a coverall — \$1,000.

Family Night Buffets are every Tuesday at the Brooks Club. Adults are \$4 and children, 6-10 years, are \$2. Children under 5 years eat free. An Italian Buffet is scheduled for Sept. 30, and Oct. 7 guests will enjoy a Western barbecue buffet. A variety of buffets served, including barbecue, Western BBQ, Oriental, Mexican, Italian, and fried chicken— so watch for your favorite foods.

Let the Brooks Club cater your next special function. We do promotion parties, retirements, weddings, birthdays and family get-togethers. Stop by the club and let us help you plan your next event.

'Travel the World on Us' Club membership drive

The "Travel the World on Us" Membership Campaign runs through Oct. 31 and is open to all eligible non-members, including active duty, retirees, reservists and civilians. The campaign hopes to educate eligible non-members about various activities clubs offer, inform the Air Force community about benefits of the club mem-

bership card and introduce club services to eligible Air Force non-members.

2003 Air Force family and teen talent contest

The family that gets up on stage together stays together. Brooks Youth Center hosts the 6th Annual Air Force Worldwide Family and Teen Talent Contest at the Brooks Club Nov. 14. Moms, dads, brothers and sisters are invited to perform together in the family-oriented event starting at 6 pm.

This program reinforces creative expression and helps youth gain a better appreciation of the performing arts. Family member acts may enter any of 15 categories for which they qualify.

Videotapes of base winners will be submitted for an Air Force-level contest, where competitors will vie for U.S. Savings Bonds.

Contact Ron Hayes or Felitia McLaurin at 536-2515 for details.

Base Library

Bldg. 705, 536-2634

September is library card sign-up month. If you don't have a library card stop by the circulation desk and let the friendly library staff assist you in getting one. If you would like the staff to come to your building to sign-up personnel for library cards, please contact Joanna Hansen at 536-2634. Visiting the library can present an array of experiences through reading.

If you are planning a trip and need information on different areas, stop by the library and check out Fodors', the latest travel books on cities and coun-

tries. It's the guide for all budgets and suggests places to stay, eat and explore on and off the beaten path.

Take a CLEP practice test before you take the exam. The tests are now available online. Stop by the circulation desk for more information.

Premiere Designs

Bldg. 705, 536-2120

Premiere Designs offers laser engraving, framing packages, business cards, presentation gifts, shadow boxes, flag boxes and many consignment items. Imagination is the key to a creative one-of-a-kind present. Add a special touch to photos you're having framed by letting us engrave a name or graphic on the glass. Throughout September, there is no additional charge for engraving of names, dates, or designs with the purchase of an 11" x 14" or smaller metal frame and mat. Let us show what a difference this can make to your family photos, that big catch that no one believed, your grandchild or any other special picture.

Calling all ghost story tellers. Enter the Ghost Story Contest and submit your entries by Oct. 15. Entry forms are available at Premiere Designs, or at the Base Library. You can also enter the contest through email. Contact rebecca.estrada@brooks.af.mil. The categories are 6-8 years; 9-12 years; 13-18 years and adults. The winner of each category will have their entry printed on parchment paper and framed. All other entries will be displayed in the Base Library display case through Nov. 1. "Check out" the ghosts in Bldg. 705 while you're there. There's a number of books on the subject.



Promotion requirements are members responsibility

Enlisted members eligible to test for promotion should be aware of the Weighted Airman Promotion System study reference distribution policy and procedures. Your unit WAPS monitor and the Military Personnel Flight, Career Enhancement Element, are available points of contact. Ultimately, the responsibility for obtaining the required study references still rests with the eligible member.

Eligible members are responsible for knowing when they are eligible for promotion, personally reviewing the WAPS catalog to identify reference requirements, ensuring they obtain and study the correct references, promptly contacting their unit WAPS monitor, before the start of the testing cycle, when courses are not received or are incorrect and maintaining the issued material until it is no longer needed.

It is the members' responsibility to ensure they receive 60 days' study time and are prepared by the first day of the test cycle.

The Personnel Data System automatically orders WAPS CDCs for members who meet the basic eligibility criteria for promotion. Basic eligibility criteria consider time-in-grade, projected separation and retirement dates, and High Year of Tenure. Members who become eligible after the ordering process has begun must request the courses through their unit WAPS monitors.

For more information regarding the Weighted Airman Promotion System at Brooks, contact your unit WAPS monitor or the Military Personnel Flight Career Enhancement Element at 536-6978.

Operations to Go solutions

from Page 14



Do you want to quit smoking?

The HAWC now offers Quit Smart™ smoking cessation classes and one-on-one appointments to help you stop smoking when you want to stop.

Please call 536-4292 for class dates and times or to schedule a one-on-one appointment.

Massages now available at the HAWC 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Call 536-4292 for appointment or details

• Nancy Martinez	• Robert Sanchez
• Massage \$25/half hr and \$45/hr	• Relaxation Massage \$25/half hour and \$45/hr
– Deep Tissue Massage	
– Relaxation Massage	
– Prenatal Massage	
• Paraffin Wax Treatments	
– \$15/area (hands, feet or elbow)	
• Spa Facials	
– \$20	

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DISCOVERY
Sept. 26, 2003





NEWS briefs

Promotion ceremony

The next Brooks enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled for Sept. 30 at 3 p.m. in the Brooks Club, Bldg. 204. The ceremony recognizes September and October promotees and those who missed the last ceremony. Come out and show your support to the newest promotees.

Retiree council vacancy

The Texas Area Air Force retiree council is seeking retirees interested in serving a tour on the council. Council members' responsibilities include annual visits to each base in their geographic area, as well as those outlined in AirForce Instruction 36-3106, Retiree Activities Program. Nominations must be received by Nov. 7. Contact Bill Torrey at 565-4663 or by email at: [william.torrey@randolph.af.mil](mailto:wiliam.torrey@randolph.af.mil). for more information.

Motorcycle Riders' Club rally

The Brooks City-Base Motorcycle Riders' Club is looking for interested motorcycle enthusiasts to join. Rallies are planned for every other Sunday, weather permitting. Brooks Riders' Club rallies are open to all Brooks personnel, including active duty, reservists, DoD civilians, friends and family members. All licensed/insured motorcycle operators with street-legal motorcycle models are welcome to attend. All makes and models of motorcycles are welcome. Contact Staff Sgt. Caeser Velez at 536-8490 for more information.

Lackland Air Force Base's 59th Medical Wing is sponsoring a motorcycle rally to the Medina Lake Cajun Festival Sept. 27. Riders should be at the Lackland motorcycle drill pad, Bldg. 9120, ready to ride at 9 a.m. Maps are provided prior to departure. Admission to the festival is \$7. If you plan to attend, please contact Staff Sgt. Ceaser Velez at 536-8490 or by email at: ceaser.velez@brooks.af.mil.

Altitude subjects

Altitude subjects are needed to help provide F-22 pilots, high altitude parachute personnel, high altitude reconnaissance pilots and astronauts with adequate equipment and procedures. Several research protocols are being conducted at the High Altitude Protection Laboratory at Brooks to accomplish this mission. Hypobaric (altitude) chamber test subjects can earn \$150 per month for participating in at least one session per month. Each subject must meet Air Force body fat or height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 18 and 50 years of age, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Heather Alexander at 536-3440 or Jim Carlile at 536-3546 for more information. The Air Force Research Laboratory Biodynamics and Protection Division is in need of active duty volunteers between the ages of 18 and 50 years and able to pass the equivalent of a flying class exam. Volunteers will participate in several studies to help in the development of safe life support equipment, protocols and procedures for Air Force aircrew in wartime and peacetime environments. Subjects may earn \$150 hazardous duty pay per month. Contact Suzanne DeLaCruz at 536-6258 for details.

Sleep subjects

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers for a number of ongoing sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet the necessary qualifications are eligible to receive compensation starting at \$10 per hour. Contact Katy Ramsey at 536-3616 for additional information, or visit the Web site at: www.ntiinc.com and link to "studies."



Lunchtime hoop showdown showcases spirited play

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

In a portent of things to come as a tune-up for the upcoming intramural basketball season, the Brooks lunchtime hoop championship game Sept. 11 had enough spice and sizzle to perhaps inspire George Foreman to heat up his barbecue grill.

In a rollicking, rollercoaster battle that featured a player ejection, referee taunting and a Jay Leno-like barrage of funny one-liners from a small but vocal crowd, Team #1 outlasted Team #5 in a rousing 44-37 victory.

The teams, composed of varsity and intramural players, had advanced to the championship round following a summer season that began Aug. 5. Lt. Col. Craston Artis, Brooks Sports Advisory Council chairman whose idea launched organized lunchtime basketball, was just as vocal as other fans who came to watch the showdown between the summer league's two best teams.

"It gives a lot of the younger guys who need organization an opportunity to work as a team," Artis said, explaining that before the league was inaugurated lunchtime hoop primarily involved unorganized pick-up games.

The title game took on a life of its own with witty wisecracks from players and fans as play sometimes appeared to resemble "basketball brawl."

Despite numerous turnovers, sloppy officiating and a seemingly endless string of penalties, Team #1 prevailed on the strength of guard Jim Turner's hot shooting. Turner

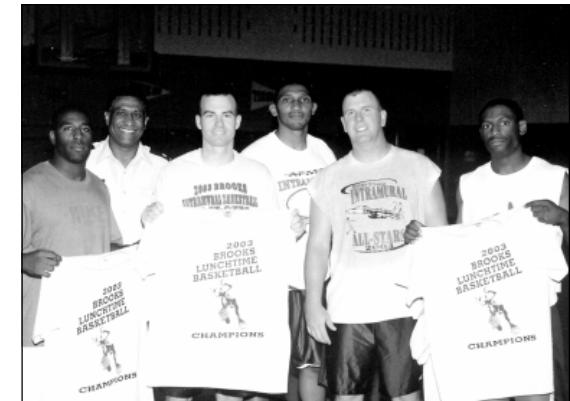


Photo by Rudy Purificato

Lt. Col. Craston Artis, second from left, Brooks Sports Advisory Council chairman who inaugurated lunchtime basketball, presented t-shirts to Team #1, the winners of the summer league's championships. Lunchtime teams are made up of a variety of varsity and intramural league players from across the base.

led all scorers with 18 points that included a pair of three-pointers and numerous foul shots. His teammates, Brooks varsity players "Bad, Bad" Leroy Brown and Rob Taylor chipped in with 10 and eight points, respectively.

Passions ran so high that a fan, varsity player Slim Bailey, shouted from the bleachers to the much maligned referees, "You're calling a horrible game." His sentiment was echoed by one of the players on the floor whose ejection further sparked the crowd when he was asked to not only leave the game and the gym, but the area code as well.